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Letter dated 3 July 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 May 2002.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 May 2002) there were just over 37,000 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre.

2. The overall situation in Kosovo during the month of May remained generally stable, with only a few incidents reported. There was an increase in the number of attempts to cross the border illegally. The number of people taking part in demonstrations, as reported in April, has fallen substantially. The overall level of serious crime was low compared to the same periods in 2000 and 2001.

Security

3. Minor incidents involving inter-ethnic violence were reported across the province, mainly in the Gnjilane and Mitrovica areas.

4. On 7 May, KFOR detained Shefket Musliu, a former commander of the disbanded Liberation Army of Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac (UCPMB), on suspicion of involvement in violent incidents in the Presevo Valley.[1] He was eventually released on 8 June at the end of the 30-day detention period authorized by the Commander of KFOR.

5. KFOR soldiers in close cooperation with the police of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) conducted a large-scale search operation of 270 buildings in northern Mitrovica on 14 May, resulting in the discovery of a small number of weapons. The new multi-ethnic market on the southern bank of the Ibar River in Mitrovica was opened without incident. A representative of KFOR, along with local politicians, community workers, and members of the international community, attended the opening ceremony. KFOR announced on 24 May that joint patrolling with UNMIK police in Mitrovica would be increased.

6. At the request of UNMIK, KFOR launched an operation on 5 May to open a walled concrete storage site at the Trepca Company compound in the Prvi Tunnel, north of Mitrovica. Seventy-five 200-litre barrels filled with sodium and potassium cyanide were removed from the premises and stored temporarily at the Mitrovica Industrial Park. UNMIK has accepted responsibility for the disposal of this toxic waste.

7. On 19 May, eight Kosovo Albanian prisoners escaped from the UNMIK prison in Dubrava, five of whom were later recaptured by UNMIK police. KFOR is assisting UNMIK in the effort to recapture the three remaining prisoners.

8. During the reporting period, KFOR continued to conduct search operations. In particular, on 24 May, a KFOR search operation in Grabovac led to the discovery of a substantial cache of weapons, ammunition, car licence plates and false identification cards. The total seized during May included 279 assorted weapons,

[1] On 17 April, there was an attack on the multi-ethnic police force in Lucane; and on 27 April a Serbian army water truck hit a mine in Dobrosin, destroying the truck and injuring two Serbian soldiers.

305 grenades and mines and 28,209 rounds of ammunition. Seventy-seven people were arrested for possession of illegal weapons and subsequently handed over to UNMIK police.

9. In the context of the weapons destruction programme, 1,831 weapons were destroyed in the month of May.

Border/boundary security

10. Border security continues to be an issue of concern, with a sustained rise in attempts to cross the border illegally. Seventy-seven incidents were recorded in May and 201 arrests were made.[2] More than two thirds of the arrests occurred on the border with Albania, while the rest occurred on the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.[3]

11. On 28 May, KFOR renewed the agreement (Temporary Operating Procedures) with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to ensure coordination and cooperation in border security and exchange of information to curb illegal border crossings. The agreement sets out procedures to cover the inadvertent crossing of the international border by the forces of KFOR and the forces of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

12. Security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remained in general compliance with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement during the month of May.

13. With regard to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), UNMIK has approved the Peace Establishment list reviewed by KFOR in May which is being used as the basis for issuing identity cards. KFOR continued with the registration and issue of the new KPC identity cards on behalf of UNMIK. On 7 May, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Commander of KFOR agreed to the new structure of the Corps, under which there will be a total strength of 5,052 members, with 3,052 on active duty and 2,000 in reserve. Within the new structure, the training organization will be expanded, and training will be controlled by a new Training and Doctrine Command. The first seven minority members joined the Corps in the Gnjilane region.

14. The number of cases of non-compliance decreased during the reporting period. Fourteen cases involving 26 KPC members were closed and 20 KPC members were dismissed. The Corps' stance on absenteeism and lack of discipline has hardened, as UNMIK and the Joint Implementation Commission are beginning the process of reviewing and improving the KPC disciplinary code.

15. KPC completed a number of field exercises with the Multinational Brigades in May, and conducted 46 other training activities including bridge building and foreign language training.

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[2] Over the past year under Operation Eagle, KFOR has seized 4,409 assorted weapons, 3,690 grenades and mines, and 389,750 rounds of ammunition. A total of 1,721 persons have been detained and turned over to UNMIK police.

[3] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

Cooperation with international organizations

16. KFOR continues to offer security assistance on request from international organizations and non-governmental organizations and in support of UNMIK police operations, especially in Mitrovica.

Refugees and displaced persons

17. On 14 May, KFOR assisted the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in securing a Kosovo Albanian area in Vushtrri to allow the return of 50 refugees. KFOR also escorted over 200 Kosovo Serbs to the Gorazdlevac Serb enclave and to the Pec monastery for the Orthodox celebrations of St. Jeremy.

Outlook

18. The threat to security from both ethnic intolerance and local crime is decreasing. UNMIK police are preparing to take over tasks in northern Kosovo currently undertaken by KFOR.